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NPIC/R-835/64

September 1964



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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

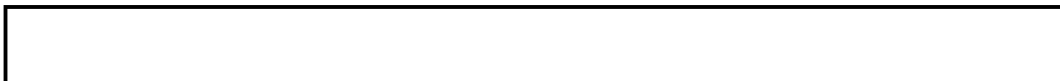
LAUNCH COMPLEX B AND PROBABLE CRUISE MISSILE TRAINING AREA KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR



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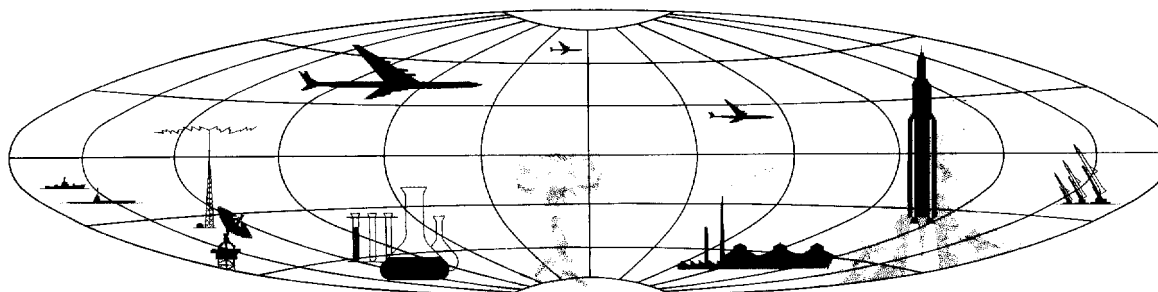


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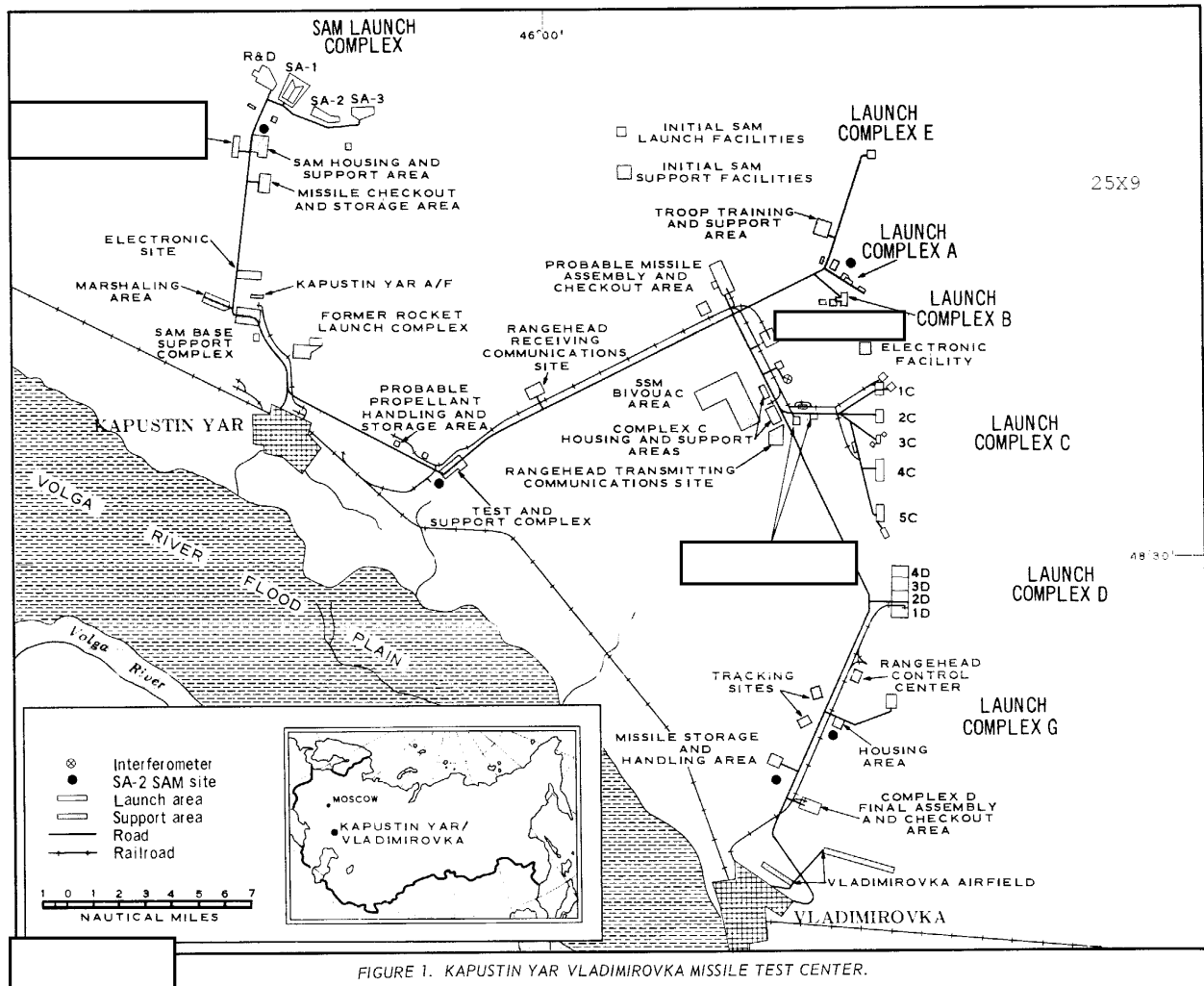


FIGURE 1. KAPUSTIN YAR VLADIMIROVKA MISSILE TEST CENTER.

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PREFACE

This report, covering Launch Complex B and a Probable Cruise Missile Training Area west of Launch Complex B, is one of a series of reports which will cover the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (Figure 1). This report, based on [redacted] photography of [redacted], will cover the changes in the foregoing areas since [redacted]

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SUMMARY

Launch Complex B of the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (KY/VMTC) consists of Launch Areas 1B, 2B, 3B, and a support area. Launch Area 1B appears to be used for testing cruise-type missiles, possibly for use aboard naval surface ships. Launch Area 2B appears to be used for testing small tactical missiles from submarine apparatus;

Launch Area 3B, recently modified, is probably used for testing cruise missiles from submarine-type launchers. Located behind Launch Complex B is an encampment of two probable cruise missile units. These troops probably utilize the facilities of the complex for training purposes.

LAUNCH COMPLEX B

Introduction

Launch Complex B (Figure 2) is located at 48/41N 46-16E, 1.3 nautical miles (nm) south of Launch Complex A. It is the most compact of all the major SSM launch complexes at KY/VMTC and consists of three launch areas oriented in a north-south direction, and a support area situated adjacent to the west. This complex, long associated with naval missile activity, appears to be capable of supporting launchings of aerodynamic cruise missiles and small, tactical missiles.

Launch Area 1B

Launch Area 1B (Figure 3), the most northerly of the three launch areas, probably is used for testing aerodynamic missiles. In 1957 Launch Area 1B included two rectangular launch pads, but by late 1959 the two pads were connected. Two inclined rail launchers were present on the northern pad in 1959. 1/ [redacted] photography of [redacted] disclosed no changes in this launch area. [redacted]

[redacted] reveals an unidentified object located on the more easterly of the two rail launchers. This object has a slant length of approximately [redacted] and a width of approximately [redacted]. There was no apparent vehicular activity at this launch area.

Launch Area 2B

The middle launch area, Launch Area 2B (Figure 3), includes one large square pad with

a large hardstand extending to the east from the northeast corner of the pad, and a large road-served hardstand connected to the south. Near the center of the large square pad, the unidentified structure previously compared to a naval missile ship motion simulator appears unchanged from previous coverage. 1/ Additionally, the two probable electronic structures, a large rectangular antenna and a tall probable electronic structure, previously associated with the possible ship motion device, have been removed. An exercise appears to have been in progress in this area, with five support-type trucks and four small unidentified vehicles parked on the eastern edge of the pad, and two support-type trucks and four small unidentified vehicles parked on the southern portion of the pad. On the northeastern hardstand are three support-type trucks and a tower-like object approximately 30 feet high. This object might be the probable electronic structure previously located near the possible ship motion device. On the southern hardstand, the unidentified object previously compared with submarine missile launching and handling mechanisms 2/ appears to have been modified by the addition of a large elevated rectangular structure. This structure, approximately [redacted] is adjacent to and slightly to the north of the original structure. The size and shape of this structure indicate

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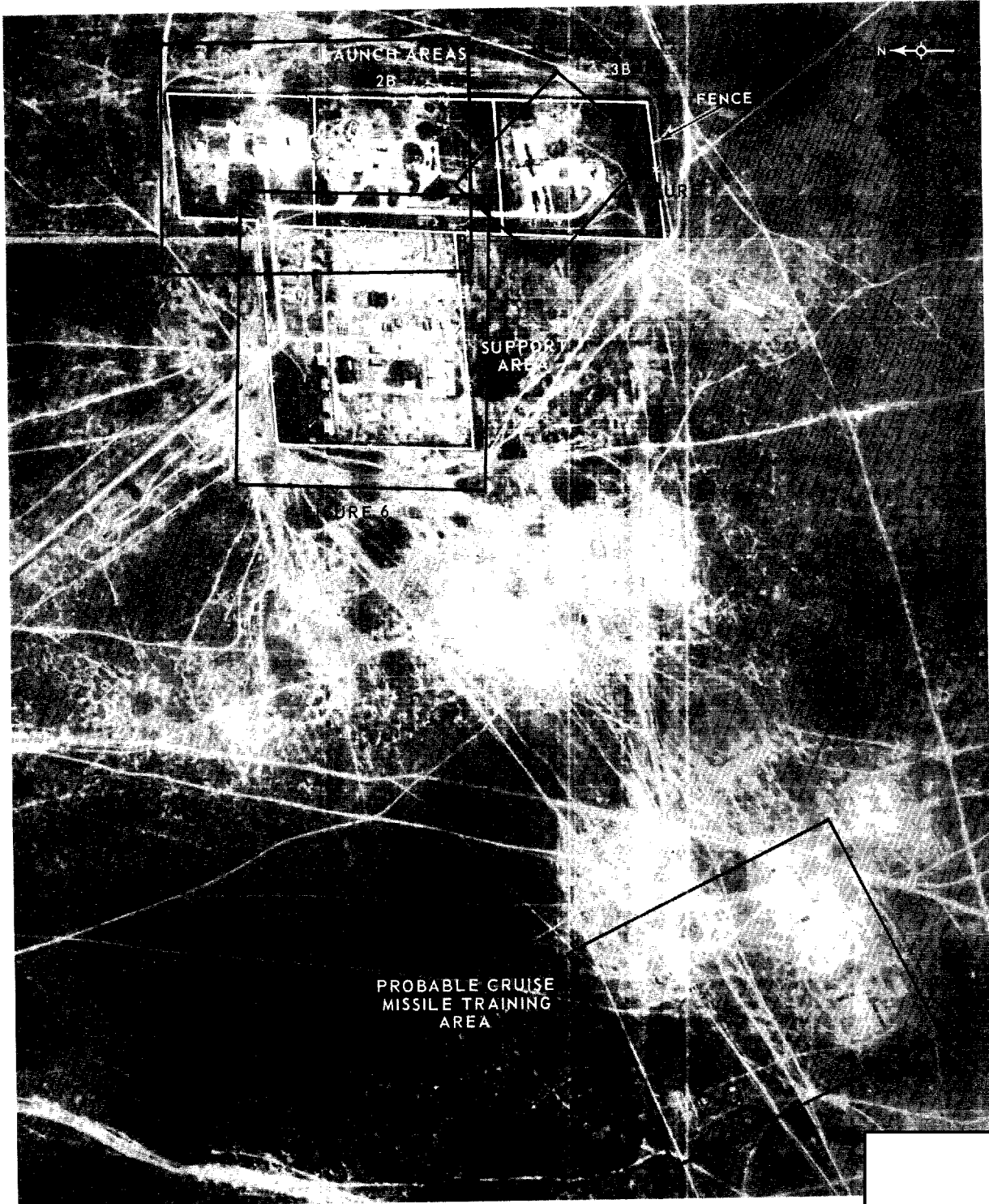


FIGURE 2. LAUNCH COMPLEX B, KY/VMT.

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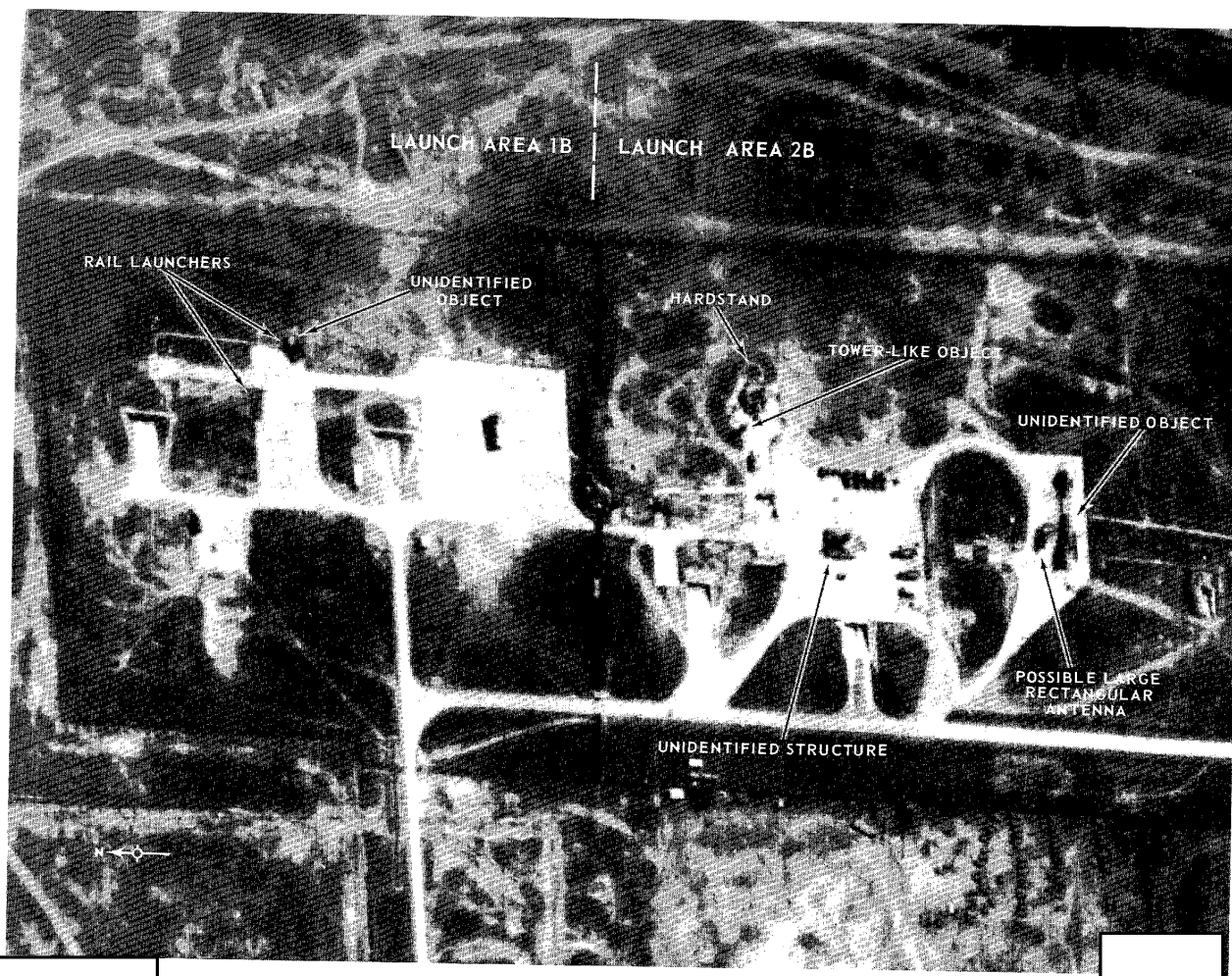


FIGURE 3. LAUNCH AREAS 1B AND 2B.

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that it might be the large rectangular antenna previously associated and located with the possible ship motion device located at the center of the square pad. No vehicular activity was apparent at the southern hardstand.

Launch Area 3B

Launch Area 3B (Figure 4) was constructed during the period 1957-1960. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this area consisted essentially of a large rectangular launch pad with an inclined launcher located to the south, and a possible twin-cylinder missile launcher located to the north.

[REDACTED] photography of [REDACTED] revealed modifications in progress to the northern section of the launch pad. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] photography (Mission [REDACTED] shows that the northern portion of 3B has been extended to the east, and the area immediately to the west of this extension has been modified

to accommodate a large overhead traveling crane. A perspective drawing of Launch Area 3B (Figure 5) is merely a representation and is not intended to be an accurate or definitive presentation of the facilities and components of the area. General configurations are shown but this should not imply that the represented shapes are not subject to later revision as better photography becomes available. The width of this addition is approximately 135 feet, and its length is approximately 430 feet. The overhead crane is approximately 125 feet long and 70 feet high and its travel apparently includes the full length of the addition, including the access road to the west. Immediately north of the crane is a tower approximately 75 feet high. Two large structures are on the ground in the area under the crane. Immediately to the west of the overhead crane is a prob-

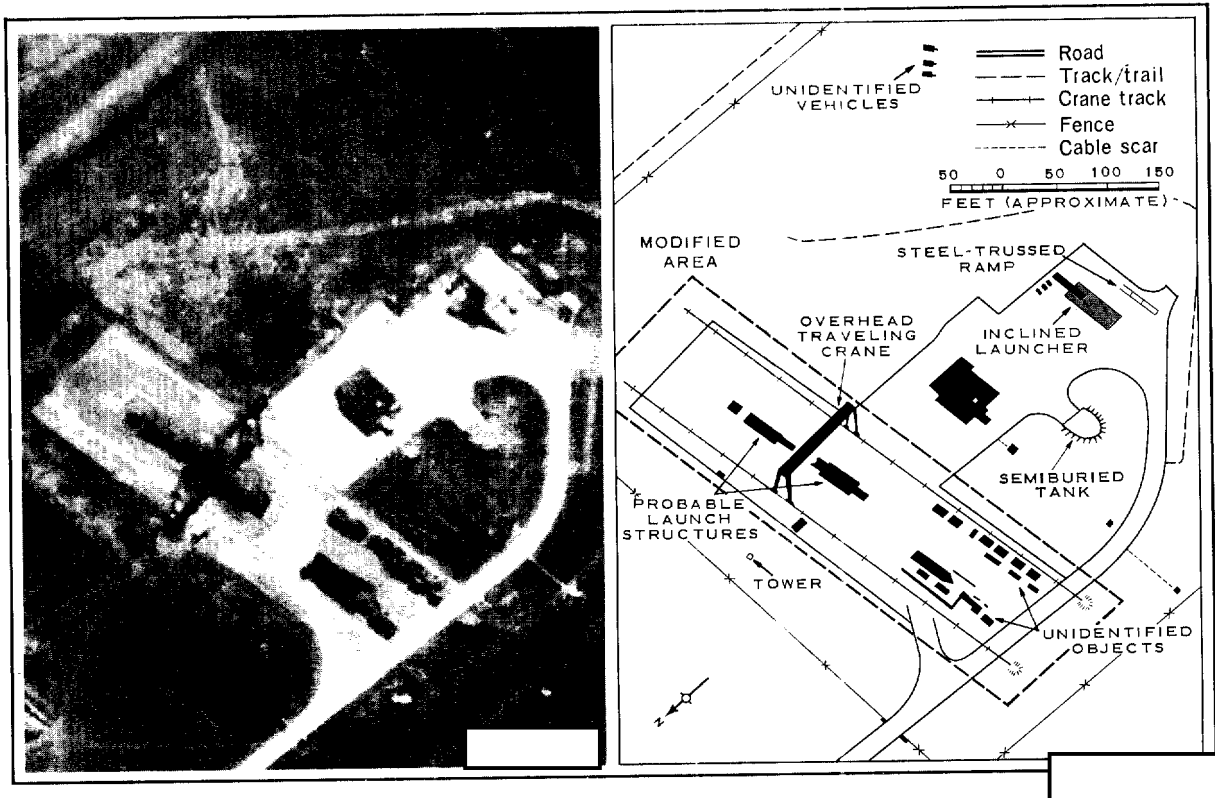


FIGURE 4. LAUNCH AREA 3B.

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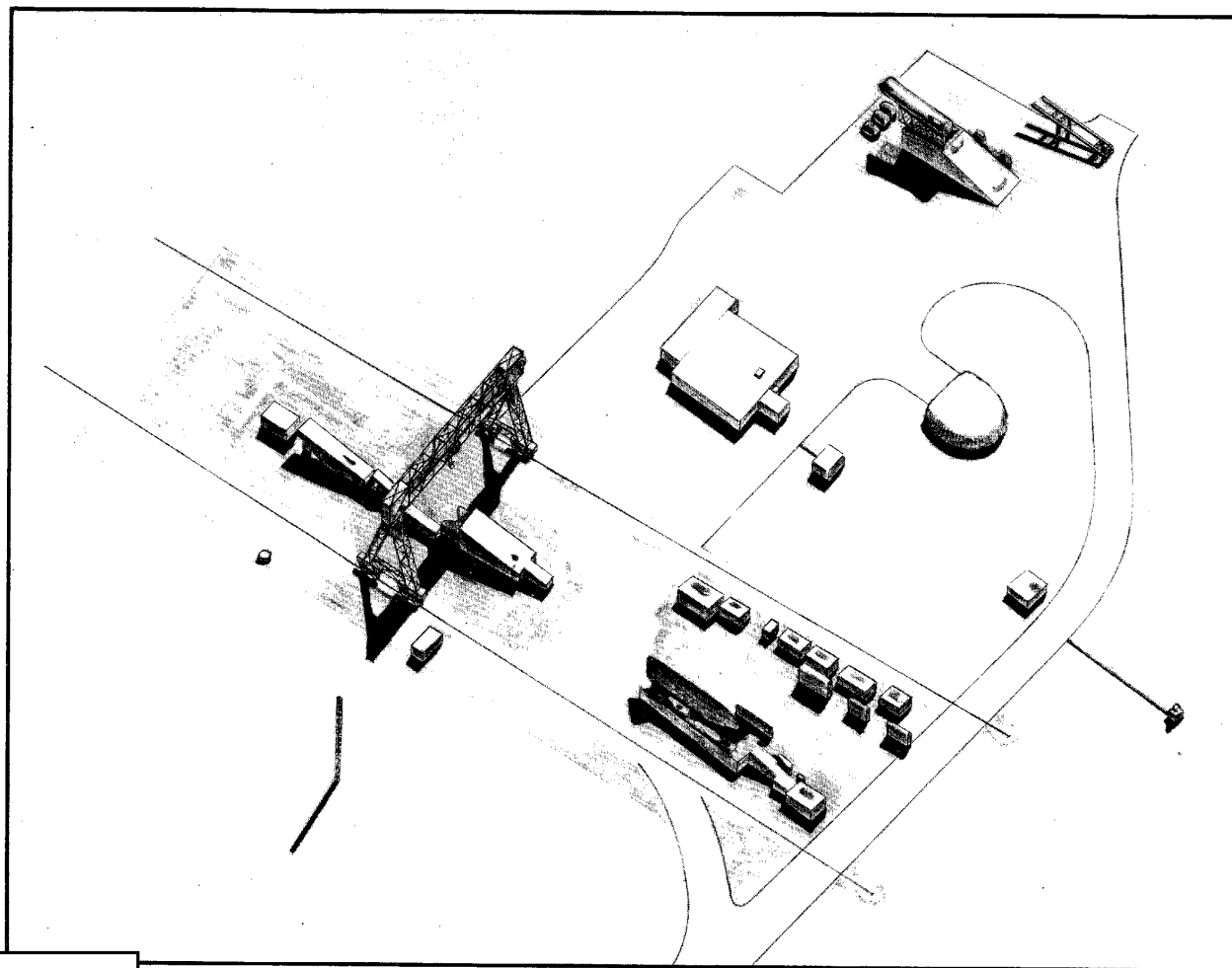


FIGURE 5. TENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE OF LAUNCH AREA 3B. Traveling crane and probable launch structures in left foreground.

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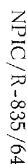
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FIGURE 6. SUPPORT AREA, LAUNCH COMPLEX B.

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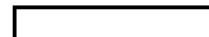


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able launch structure approximately 65 feet long [redacted] This structure appears to be inclined toward the east. The other probable launch structure is located immediately to the east of the overhead crane position. This structure cannot be measured because of obstructed view caused by the crane. It also appears to be inclined toward the east. A row of unidentified objects and a large object are located in the western portion of the addition. In the southern portion of the launch area on the inclined launcher is an unidentified object with a slant length of approximately [redacted] [redacted] and adjacent to the south is

a long inclined steel trussed ramp which could be a movable extension of the inclined launcher. At least three unidentified vehicles are located in the southeast corner of the launch area.

Support Area

The Launch Complex B support area (Figure 6) is little changed since [redacted] photography of [redacted] At least 29 containers approximately [redacted] are observed in a storage area. These containers appear to be dimensionally similar to the unidentified objects located on the inclined rail launchers at areas 1B and 3B.

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PROBABLE CRUISE MISSILE TRAINING AREA

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A probable cruise missile training area (Figure 7) is located approximately 0.7 nm west-southwest of Launch Complex B. Apparently two separate units were encamped in this area in [redacted] The eastern unit has 21 pyramidal tents, one larger possible officers' tent, and a large tent which is possibly a mess area. Several trucks and smaller vehicles are located in a motor pool nearby. A short distance to the south are 2 probable canvas-covered cruise missile transporters, 2 probable large tractors/semitrailers, 7 support-type trucks, at least 7 small probable wheeled vehicles, and a small tentlike structure.

The western unit has 18 pyramidal tents, one larger possible officers' tent, and a large tent which is possibly a mess area. Several trucks are in and around this area. To the south are 2 probable canvas-covered cruise missile transporters, 3 large probable tractors/semitrailers--one with an approximately 30-foot-high vertical tower mounted on the trailer portion--and at least 20 smaller support-type vehicles. Though the roads in this area are generally not hard surfaced, an analysis of vehicle tracks indicates that Launch Area 3B might be used by these units for cruise missile training exercises.

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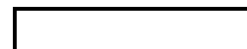
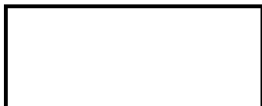
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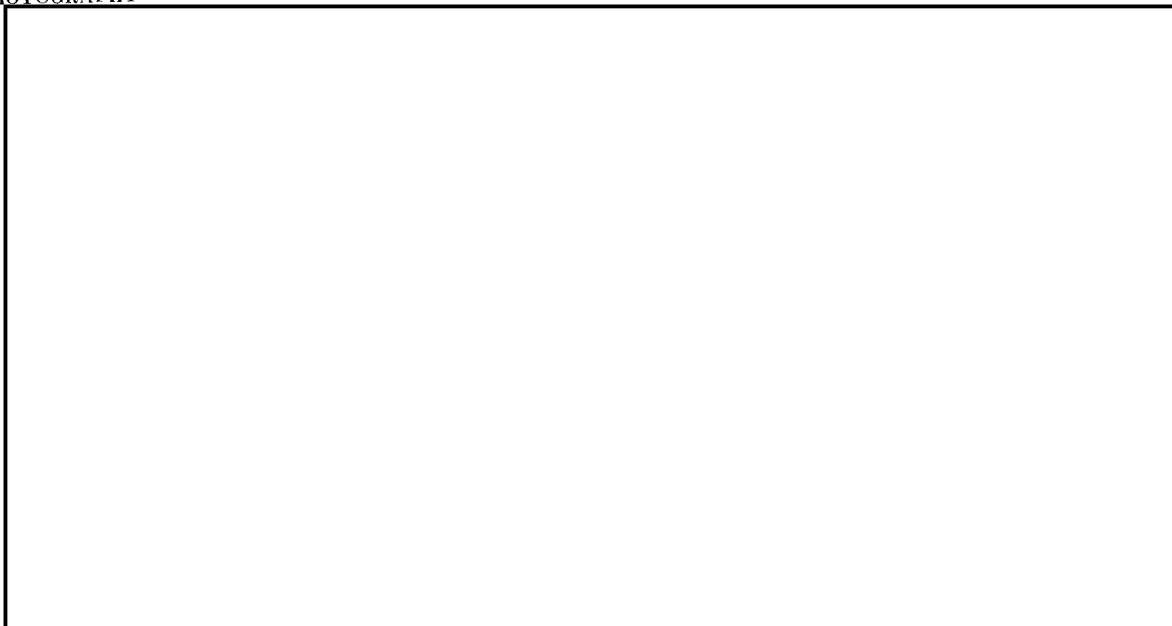
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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

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MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0235-22AL, 3d ed, May 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENTS

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1. NPIC. R-8/61, *Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center, USSR, Changes since* [redacted] Oct 61
(TOP SECRET [redacted])

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2. NPIC. R-1162/63, *Launch Complex B, Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center, USSR, Mar 63*, (SECRET/
[redacted])

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RELATED DOCUMENT

NPIC. R-156/63, *Launch Complexes A, B, E, and G, Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center, USSR, Aug 63*
(TOP SECRET [redacted])

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REQUIREMENTS

UGMC-64; DIAXX 64-14; [redacted] (partial answers)

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NPIC PROJECT

N-551/64 (partial answer)

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